Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Hicks in view of U.S. Patent 5,475,441 (Parulski et al.). Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Hicks in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,359 (Aoki). Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a peripheral apparatus which can be connected to a computer apparatus. The detecting means detects the voltage level of a signal line connected to the personal computer. The power supply control means controls the supply of electric power from the power source to the predetermined circuit in accordance with the output of the detecting means. The discriminating means determines whether or not a communication request for a predetermined procedure has been received from the personal computer after the electric power of the power source was supplied to the predetermined circuit by the power supply control means. The control means allows the supply of electric power from the power supply to continue once the discriminating means discriminates the presence of the communication request.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to a camera which can be connected to a computer apparatus. The recording means records a photographed image. The detecting means detects the level of a data line which is connected to a personal computer. The discriminating means judges whether or not an input signal is a predetermined command from the personal computer. The image output means outputs image data recorded by the recording means to the personal computer. The control means starts the supply of electric power to the recording means and the image output means according to the detected result of the detecting means, and then controls the supply of the electric power according to the discrimination result of the discriminating means so as to continue the supply of electric power once the predetermined command is discriminated by the discriminating means, and to stop in the case where the predetermined command is not discriminated by the discriminating means.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that a peripheral apparatus that can be attached to a personal computer turns its power on when the apparatus receives a predetermined data pattern transmitted from the personal computer. The apparatus then discriminates whether or not the personal computer has transmitted a communication request to perform a control operation. The control operation can be to continue to supply power when the communication request is discriminated or to turn off power turned on by the apparatus when the communication request is not discriminated. In other words, the peripheral apparatus turns its own power on

itself when the apparatus detects the predetermined data pattern, and thereafter determines whether or not the communication request has been received from the personal computer. The latter is used to further determine whether to maintain power.

As understood by Applicant, Hicks teaches a power saving device arranged between, and connected to, both a host computer and a peripheral device. When the power saving device detects data present at the output port of the host computer, the power saving device supplies power to the peripheral device thereby allowing the peripheral device to receive the data (see col. 4, line 50 to col. 5, line 5). Power to the peripheral device is turned off when data has not been detected at the output port of the host device for a predetermined period of time (see col. 1, lines 65-67). Therefore, the power saving device of Hicks must itself be powered at all times in order to detect whether or not the host computer has data to be sent to the peripheral device.

Hicks is distinguishable from Applicant's invention because nothing is found in Hicks to teach or suggest a peripheral device with an inactive power supply controlling the activity of its own power supply, as well as the duration of the supplied power.

Further, as understood by Applicant and as stated in the Office Action in paragraphs 5 and 6, both Parulski et al. and Aoki merely teach a camera which can be connected to a personal computer. However, neither Parulski et al. nor Aoki, either taken separately or in combination with Hicks,

teaches or suggests the implementation of power saving in a camera as recited in Applicant's invention.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 758-2400 or by facsimile at (212) 758-2982. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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